

BUILDING PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT REPORT

*...Building
for Success*



OKLAHOMA AND
KANSAS

Midwest Tornadoes of May 3, 1999

OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS,
AND TECHNICAL GUIDANCE



WIND ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTER

TEXAS TECH
UNIVERSITY



FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Mitigation Directorate, Washington DC
and Region VI, Denton, TX
and Region VII, Kansas City, MO



Dedication

In areas devastated by tornadoes, American flags are often placed in remembrance of individuals who lost their lives. This report is dedicated to the individuals, families, and friends who suffered devastating losses from the tornadoes of May 3, 1999.



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The Building Performance Assessment Team Process

In response to hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and other disasters, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) often deploys Building Performance Teams (BPATs) to conduct field investigations at disaster sites. The members of a BPAT include representatives of public sector and private sector entities who are experts in specific technical fields such as structural and civil engineering, building design, and construction, and building code development and enforcement. BPATs inspect disaster-induced damages incurred by residential and commercial buildings and other manmade structures; evaluate local design practices, construction methods and materials, building codes, and building inspection and code enforcement processes; and make recommendations regarding design, construction, and code issues. With the goal of reducing the damage caused by future disasters, the BPAT process is an important part of FEMA's hazard mitigation activities.

The statements and recommendations in this report are those of the individual team members and do not necessarily represent the views of the organizations they belong to, the U.S. Government in general, or FEMA or other Federal agencies in particular. The U.S. Government, FEMA, and other Federal agencies assume no responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the information herein.